MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 NOVEMBER 1985

Egypt

Only one Arab state could be involved in the hijacking of the Egyptian plane, President Husni Mubarak declared in remarks reported by MENA, adding that he is "not at liberty to name it now, but it is a state whose only concern is terrorism." Asked whether Egypt will take military action if Libya's involvement is proven, Mubarak stressed that if Egypt resorts to war, its goal will be to achieve peace. The decision to go to war would cause many deaths, he pointed out, asserting that "one does not punish an entire people just to punish a single man." Mubarak said he was "extremely sorry" to hear that Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, had expressed support for the hijacking, and he disclosed that one of the leaders of the Palestinian group responsible for the hijacking is staying at the "Grand Hotel" in Libya. As for the operation by Egyptian troops, the president said the commandos fired only seven bullets and he attributed the loss of innocent lives to the hijackers' use of phosporous bombs. He thanked France, the United States, and Britain for offering military assistance.

Mubarak received visiting Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who is currently heading a Jordanian delegation to meetings of the Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Committee, Cairo radio reported. Prime Minister 'Ali Lutfi revealed that the first meeting of the committee focused on bilateral economic relations, though he noted that Al-Rifa'i also conveyed a message from King Husayn expressing Jordan's support for all Egypt's measures to resist terrorism, the radio said.

Israeli-Moroccan Relations

Although Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres was cited by Jerusalem radio as saying that he will "definitely" meet with Morocco's King Hassan II, an official Moroccan statement carried by Rabat radio declared that King Hassan has not invited Peres either directly or indirectly. The statement, which was issued to clarify Hassan's remarks to French journalists, insisted that no meeting with Peres can take place unless he is "prepared to respond" to the Arab demands concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the interview carried by Paris radio, the king had said that Peres should "come and see" him when he has "something serious to propose."

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that Israel will shortly recall the diplomat who was the contact for the American suspected of spying for Israel in the United States. The radio suggested that two other diplomats may also be recalled in connection with the spy affair.

In the West Bank, the Israeli civilian administration appointed an Arab mayor and town council for Nabulus, Jerusalem radio announced.

PLO Affairs

A PLO Central Council (PCC) communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio called for an urgent meeting attended by all PLO factions, the PLO Executive Committee, and "national figures," in order to strengthen Palestinian unity. The communique, issued at the end of the PCC session in Baghdad, also called on the PLO leadership to fix a date and venue for such a meeting and stressed the need for the agenda to be open to all items and issues without conditions.

Lebanon

A National Resistance Front and Ba'th Party organization statement carried by Beirut radio announced that a suicide car bomb attack destroyed an "entire position" of the army of south Lebanon (ASL) near Jazzin which housed 50 ASL men and "a number" of Israeli intelligence officers. The ASL acknowledged that the bomb wounded one militiaman, AFP reported.

Iran

Confirming that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni is currently in "perfect health," Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a press conference broadcast by Tehran radio that the Assembly of Experts appointed Khomeyni's successor so that society will never suffer a "leadership vacuum."

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Karmal Addresses Officials, Military Leaders

LD261837 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, attended a session to determine the results of the military and political training and education and combat activities of units and companies of the various ranks of the DRA Army during the 1984-1985 academic year.

Major General Najibullah, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Mir Sahib Karwal, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Minister of the Interior Maj Gen Sayyed Muhammad Golabzoy; Maj Gen Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi, first deputy chief of the State Information Services [KHAD]; and Brigadier General Nurulhaq Ulumi, official of the Department of Defense and Justice of the PDPA Central Committee accompanied him. They arrived at Defense Ministry headquarters and were welcomed by Minister of Defense Maj Gen Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; Maj Gen Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of Army political affairs; Maj Gen Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of the General Staff of the DRA Armed Forces; and Maj Gen Muhammad Nabi Azemi, first vice minister of the DRA Defense Ministry, and other members of the Defense Ministry leadership.

Babrak Karmal, to an enthusiastic and patriotic reception from the participants of the session, made a meaningful and comprehensive speech. Recalling the decisions and resolutions of the 16th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee and the approvals and resolutions of the DRA Revolutionary Council, he said:

The PDPA Central Committee and the DRA are proud of the Armed Forces and in particular of the liberated Army of our country; we respect the great and heroic services of the soldiers of the Army in defending the independence and honor of the Afghan people and the territorial integrity and independence of our country, the DRA.

The Central Committee has deep confidence in our liberated Army. Each victory by the Army is an honor to our party and state. The victories of our soldiers in the military operations of Khost and Herat and other regions are a credit to the party, state and people of Afghanistan.

Babrak Karmal specifically recalled the consistent attention paid by the party Central Committee and the DRA to the Armed Forces and in particular the DRA Army, and reminded listeners of the brave struggles of the Afghans against the British colonialist and other enemies of our country, who today in collaboration with the darkest imperialistic circles headed by U.S. imperialism, are intervening and encroaching in our country. Pointing out the duties and responsibilities of the headquarters, the political authorities, the prosecutor's offices and the courts in the present situation in the country, he said:

The first task in the new training and education is that the soldiers, NCO's and officers of our Army should have political awareness and patriotic training, because the combat capability of the Army and the Army's ability to struggle against the counterrevolution arises from a sound political and combat training and education.

Babrak Karmal once more spoke about the correct appointments in the military cadres, improvement of training work in the ranks of the DRA Army, promotion of the moral and combat mentality of officials in various ranks of the Army, consolidation and completion of the ranks of the Army and intensification of training and education in the academic centers of the Armed Forces, consolidation of further discipline and on the pure and honest friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. He emphasized the improvement of the living conditions of the soldiers regarding food, clothing, and other necessities, and assigned specific duties to the logistics officials in this respect.

Babrak Karmal evaluated the work of the commanders and political organs of the border defense units and companies in preventing the infiltration of the armed counterrevolutionary bands, in the light of the decisions of the High Tribal Jirga. He demanded stronger and more serious military work of the border forces and constant contact with the resident of the borders, and assigned specific duties to the border forces of the country.

According to another report on the continuing work of the session in the conference hall of the Ministry of Defense, Maj Gen Nazar Muhammad; Maj Gen Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi; Maj Gen Nabi Azemi; Maj Gen Shanawaz Tanay, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces,and a number of the commanders and generals of the important companies spoke.

Briefcase Bomb Defused in Agriculture Ministry

LD261924 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a source from the responsible security force, reports: Today at 1245, as a result of the country's security forces' awareness, nine bags of explosives along with two detonators placed in a briefcase by counterrevolutionary savages devoid of culture, were discovered and defused. The briefcase had been concealed in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform administrative department. The perpetrators of this incident are being intensively sought by the country's security forces.

Security Forces Seize Weapons in Paghman, Baghlan

LD261938 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Quoting a source in the national security forces, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of successful operations by the vigilant security forces, with the full patriotic cooperation of the noble people of (?Arghandeh-ye Bala) of Paghman District, 29 surface-to-surface rockets, 18 rocket launcher shells, 40 mortar shells, 13 boxes of mortar shells [as heard], 30 surface-to-surface [word indistinct] three boxes of

explosives, 35 hand grenades, 12,000 various types of ammunition, 500 meters of wire for explosives, three boxes of antipersonnel mines, a number of DShK rounds of ammunition, and a number of antistate documents were seized.

As a result of successful operations carried out in the area of Baghlan Province by the national security forces, 1,500 rounds of DShK ammunition, 3,500 rounds of ammunition, 24 various types of weapons, 20 antipersonnel mines, 19 rounds of ammunition for rocket launchers, one mortar, and four boxes of antitank mines were seized by the security forces.

The report adds that during the operation one enemy mortar was destroyed.

SPA: Soviet-Afghan Convoys Seen Departing Kabul

GF262006 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1750 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Islamabad, 26 Nov (SPA) — Western diplomatic sources in Kabul have reported that large military convoys of the joint Soviet invading forces and Afghan forces left a military base in the Afghan capital. This raises speculation that new offenses against the Afghan mujahidin are likely.

These sources stated that one of the convoys was seen on 19 November and consists of over 350 armored vehicles. Two other convoys have also been seen leaving the capital during the past 2 days. They included 300 armored vehicles and 20 to 30 tanks. Also, 16 to 24 helicopters were seen taking off from the capital airport to provide air cover for the convoys.

The sources stated that the convoys headed for the province of Shomali, north of Lowgar Valley. They also headed for Wardak Province, southeastern Kabul. The sources cited reports as saying that the fighting had ended in the strategic valley of Panjsher, north of the capital, and in Nangarhar in the eastern part of the country.

The mujahidin succeeded in shooting down a Soviet helicopter in Panjsher Province on 15 November. The Soviet forces withdrew from the main parts of the valley and were stationed in their impregnable garrisons. The sources reported that explosions ripped through Kabul, one in the airport region east of the capital, last Friday and Saturday. The sources added that a booby-trapped car exploded on 20 November outside the Transport Ministry. This resulted in the killing or wounding of four persons. Eight people were assassinated during the past week. They are believed to be the victims of fighting among elements of the ruling Communist Party.

Riyadh: Mujahidin Kills 100 Soviet-Karmal Troops

GF270629 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Nov 85

[Text] Reports on the Afghan mujahidin indicate that the mujahidin have managed to kill over 100 of the invading Soviet forces and the forces of the Babrak Karmal regime. They have also destroyed 7 armored vehicles in the battles that raged between the mujahidin and the invading forces around Amardar, which is located in eastern Afghanistan. Reports indicate that some 300 tanks and armored vehicles belonging to the Soviet and agent Afghan forces took part in these battles that raged on 18 November. Mujahidin sources said that 20 mujahidin were martyred during the ferocious fighting and that 11 troops of the Afghan regime fled Barikot garrison after killing two of its commanders.

It is noteworthy that the Barikowt garrison, which lies in the Kolar border district in eastern Afghanistan, witnessed major battles last summer.

AFP: Rebel Positions Mined

HK270246 Hong Kong AFP in English 0151 GMT 27 Nov 85

[By Jacques Charmelot]

[Text] Tehran, Nov 27 (AFP) — Soviet-Afghan troops, frustrated by three failed offensives against Muslim rebels in Herat, western Afghanistan, have ringed rebel positions with 5,000 antipersonnel mines which wound but do not kill, rebel sources here said.

At a makeshift hospital at the Jamiyat-e Islami headquarters here, 19 wounded men, all under 20, are being treated for injuries involving these mines.

One of the injured, Agha Mohamad Sarbaze [name as received], said: "If the mines were bigger, they would be less effective."

"These small mines wound, but do not kill," said Mr Sarbaze, 19, whose right leg was badly injured by one. "The result is that four combatants have to carry away whoever is injured, leaving five fewer to fight."

Jamiyat-e Islami said the "new approach" to the war followed "successive failures" in the last three Soviet-Afghan pushes in the region aimed at controlling the major roads in the area.

The offensives in July, August and October had been a "disaster for the Soviets", the rebel group said.

"We have now started a systematic de-mining operation," a Jamiyat-e Islami leader said. "So far, we have removed 3,700 anti-personnel mines."

The operation is costing the rebels heavily and the mujahidin complain that they have little international help, even from Muslim fundamentalist neigbours such as Iran.

"We are fighting to rid our country of the Soviet presence", said Mr Agha Sarbaze, "but how can we do it with one gun and five cartridges for each combatant?"

Among the wounded being treated here is Mohamad Rahim, whose left foot was torn off by a mine and whose right leg is riddled with mine fragments.

He explained that he was wounded on a mine disposal operation.

Another of the wounded, who identified himself only as Salahedin, said he had to have his left leg amputated three weeks ago in Herat.

"I walked on a mine while we were attacking the Soviet tanks," he said.

The young men being treated here nearly all have serious leg injuries and, because they could not be treated on the spot, were transported the 1,200 km (750 miles) from Afghanistan to the Jamiyat-e Islami headquarters here, converted into a temporary hospital.

An Iranian doctor caring for them here said they had to be moved because there were not enough blood supplies in Afghanistan. The conditions of their treatment are far from perfect.

The 19 wounded are stretched out on the floor under a single blue neon light that adds to their pallor. The green paint on the walls of the narrow room is hardly discernable under a greasy film of filth. The relative whiteness of their bandaged legs stands out against their ill-matching khaki uniforms and crumpled blankets.

Today, they were waiting hopefully for beds to be found for them in hospitals in the Iranian capital.

Gandhi Briefs Parliament on Foreign Visits

BK261409 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] The prime minister has expressed confidence that his visit to Vietnam and Japan will be as fruitful as those which he has undertaken so far. Mr Rajiv Gandhi is leaving New Delhi tonight for these countries. In a statement in Parliament, he said India has close relations with both Vietnam and Japan. The prime minister also gave an account of his foreign visits during the intersession period.

Speaking about the Commonwealth summit, he said the accord on South Africa represents a step forward, although India would have preferred a stronger statement. He pointed out that for the first time Britain is committed to specific economic measures against South Africa which will be closely monitored by a group of eminent persons. India has nominated Mr Swaran Singh to this group which will also assist in a political dialogue with South Africa. The declaration on world order adopted by the conference was essentially based on an Indian draft.

Mr Gandhi said both in the Bahamas and in New York he had useful discussions with a large number of heads of state and government. About his visit to Cuba, he said he was very impressed with the visible progress made by that country under President Castro. Mr Gandhi said he was deeply moved by the mass send-off given to him by the population of Havana. His discussions in Moscow with Mr Gorbachev carried forward the talks he had held during his visit in May. India and the Soviet Union are in continuous touch on matters of common interest.

In a reference to his visit to Britain, the prime minister expressed the belief that this has led to better comprehension of India's concern. These concerns arise from the anti-Indian extremist activities from British territory, the imbalance in economic exchanges, and the consular and immigration problems faced by Indian nationals.

About his talks in The Hague, the prime minister said these were very useful and India appreciates the Netherlands' very positive stand toward developing countries and North-South dialogue.

The prime minister also made a reference to his visits to Oman and Bhutan. He said there are promising possibilities of further expansion of India's relations with Oman. His visit to Bhutan has greatly strengthened the excellent relations between the two countries. Mr Gandhi said he was touched by the overwhelming welcome he received from the Bhutanese Government and the people.

Chief Priest of Golden Temple Wounded in Shooting

HK270640 Hong Kong AFP in English 0631 GMT 27 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Amritsar, India, Nov 27 (AFP) — Sikh militants shot and wounded the chief priest of the Sikhs' holiest temple as he was about to begin a ceremony before thousands of devotees here today, the area police chief said. The assailants killed his guard and the attack sparked anger among residents in this Sikh holy city, prompting the ordering of a police clampdown, Chief S.S. Virk said. Two men shot the priest, Sahib Singh, 45, several times from behind. One bullet struck an arm and another his back, Chief Virk said. A third Sikh was involved but was not armed, he said.

The priest was operated on in hospital, where doctors pronounced him out of danger. The assailants escaped.

Between 10,000 and 12,000 Sikhs were inside the Golden Temple at 4:30 am when the attack took place. They were celebrating the 516th birth anniversary of the founder of their religion, Guru Nanak. The priest was fired on as he was descending some steps to start a ritual, an eyewitness told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "He fell, but there was confusion. His bodyguard, Nanak Singh, who was on the seventh step, was hit by another hail of bullets," the eyewitness said. "Nanak Singh died on the spot and Gyani Ji (the priest) was rushed to the hospital...There was anger among the devotees," another eyewitness said.

Paramilitary Central Reserve Police were ordered to patrol around the Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest, and the streets of the city to ward off possible retaliatory violence. A heavy police force was guarding the hospital where Mr Sahib Singh is convalescing, Chief Virk said.

As the chief priest of the Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest temple, Mr Sahib Singh is generally revered by Sikhs.

"There is anger and anguish among the people here, but we do not fear any more attacks or retalition," Chief Virk said. He said a massive hunt was on for the attackers. The attackers were Sikhs in their teens, but no other identifying details were known. Police said they believed they were hardcore militants campaigning for secession of this Sikh-dominated Punjab state.

Mr Sahib Singh rose to prominence here at the height of a Sikh autonomy campaign when he sided with the moderate leader Harchand Singh Longowal and condemned the secessionist militants and their alleged killings.

This was the first time that an armed attack had been made on a priest inside the Golden Temple, which was the site of an Indian Army assault to drive out entrenched militants last year. Some 650 people died in the four-day attack.

Residents said they were shocked at the attack, particularly as Sikhs were observing the birth anniversary of their founder.

Leaders Condemn Violence

BK270918 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Nov 85

[Text] In Amritsar, the head granthi [priest] of the Golden Temple, Giani Sahib Singh, was seriously injured and one of his two bodyguards killed early this morning when they were fired at in the Golden Temple precinct.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, Giani Sahib Singh was attacked from behind soon after he entered the [word indistinct] of the Golden Temple from the Ghantaghar side at

about 0445. The assailants escaped taking advantage of the rush of devotees and darkness. Giani Sahib Singh was immediately rushed to hospital and operated upon to remove the bullets. His condition is stated to be out of danger. Senior civil and police officials are continuing the investigation.

The spokesman said it is not ascertained as yet whether it was an assailant or a group of assailants.

The president, Giani Zail Singh, has expressed shock at the attack on Giani Sahib Singh and described it as most unfortunate. The president also mourned the death of one of his bodyguards.

The Punjab governor, Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, expressed his profound shock at the incident. Mr Sharma said it was most unfortunate that such an incident should have taken place at a time when people were celebrating Guru Nanak's birth anniversary. He said the cult of violence must be condemned by all.

The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has also condemned the attack. In a statement he said that the nefarious designs of the disruptive forces, which are not only antireligious but also bent upon destroying the sanctity of the holiest shrine, shall not be allowed to succeed. He said it is the duty of all right thinking people, particularly the Sikhs, to raise their voice against those who have used the birthday of Guru Nanak, apostle of peace and universal brotherhood, to shed the blood of a holy man in a holy place.

Dr Baldev Prakash, state BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president said state government should take all steps to prevent recurrence of such incident.

Chief Priest Comments

HK271140 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 27 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Amritsar, India, Nov 27 (AFP) — The chief priest of the Sikh religion's holiest shrine today condemned as a "cowardly act" an attack here in which gunmen shot and wounded him and killed a bodyguard. Sahib Singh, speaking from his bed in hospital where doctors pronounced him out of danger after operating on two bullet wounds, said he could not identify his assailants.

Police said that the attackers were Sikh militants campaigning for a separate Sikh state in this northeastern state of Punjab, the Sikh homeland.

"I am a religious man. I do not have any enemies," said the 45-year-old priest, who is considered a moderate in the Sikh political spectrum. "I am not bothered about my life, but my regret is that this cowardly act was carried out inside the Darbar Sahib," he said, referring to the Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, where the attack occurred. "This is the most sacred place of the Sikhs."

A doctor attending the priest said that he was "doing fine" and that there was nothing to worry about. "The wounds are not hurting me," Mr Sahib Singh said. "I am most pained by the thought that some misguided youths thought of shedding another's blood inside the temple."

"I just had prostrated before the Darbar Sahib," said the priest. "Suddenly I felt something had hit me. There were gun shots. When I realised someone was going to kill me I ran for cover. The assailants chased me, but by that time others had come and I was taken inside a room."

He said he had not lost consciousness: "All along my thought was on the fact that such an important day was spoiled. I could not perform the rituals which I was supposed to. I was taken to hospital in a scooter-taxi as no car was available," Mr Sahib Singh added.

Indian President Zail Singh, himself a Sikh, condemned the shooting: "I am shocked to know about the murderous attack. It is most unfortunate." And Punjab Chief Minister Surjeet Singh Barnala also denounced the attack, saying: "Nefarious designs of the forces of disruption should not be allowed to succeed. It is the duty of all right-thinking people — particularly the Sikhs — the world over to raise their voice against persons who, on the birthday of Guru Nanak, apostle of peace and universal brotherhood, chose to shed the blood of the holy man within the holiest place."

Punjab, Andhra Pradesh Governors Sworn In

BK261609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma was sworn in as the governor of Punjab at a simple ceremony in Chandigarh this afternoon. The chief justice of Punjab and Haryana high court, Mr Justice P.C. Jain, administered the oath of office and secrecy to him. The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, his cabinet colleagues and senior officials were present.

In Hyderabad, Miss Kumudbhen Joshi was sworn in as governor of Andhra Pradesh. Mr K. Bhaskaran, chief justice of the state high court, administered the oath of office and secrecy to her. The chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, and his cabinet colleagues were among those present on the occasion.

Khomeyni Reported in 'Perfect Health'

LD261432 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 26 Nov 85

["A. Montazeri's Selection To Prevent 'Leadership Vacuum' " — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday [26 November] that the Assembly of Experts has chosen ayatollah [title only as received] as the future leader of the Islamic Revolution.

He said the decision was made because the ayatollah enjoys the support of the majority of the people and because he has significant distinction over other supreme Islamic jurisprudents.

The news of the selection was first announced by the prayer leader of Qazvin in the Friday mass prayer and daily *KAYHAN* carried a report on it the next day.

Rafsanjani said that the Assembly decided to chose the future leader despite the good health of Imam Khomeyni so the country would not suffer from a "leadership vacuum in case anything happened to the imam."

"Thank god that imam is in perfect health and may God give him a longer than average life" he said "but it was the responsibility of the Assembly to be prepared".

Fifty members of the Assembly signed a letter proposing Ayatollah Montazeri but other persons were also discussed by the commission that was set up, according to Rafsanjani.

The final vote was taken in the third meeting of the current session.

The Majlis speaker said that members of the Assembly believed that Ayatollah Montazeri had greater distinction than others because of his "distinguished records of struggle" for the Islamic Revolution.

"Of course, it is clear that the selection is about the time after imam" he added.

The document on the selection of Ayatollah Montazeri has not yet been sent to Imam Khomeyni because some members of the Assembly are on trips and have not signed it, he said.

Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, the temporary Friday Prayer leader of Qom, presides over the Assembly of Experts.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the Assembly of Experts, an elected body, to select the leader of the country.

The Constitiution states that three or five people can be chosen to form a council of leadership if there is no one person with clear distinction over others.

The 74-member assembly meets once every year. Its recent session started 9 November.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Press Conference

LD262217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, deputy chairman of the Council of Assembly, gave a press and radio television conference today during which he read the text of a bill approved by the Assembly of Experts on the appointment of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as the future leader of the Islamic Revolution. With the broadcast of the text of this conference, we end this hour's news bulletin of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Good night and may God be with you:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Hashemi! Recently, during Friday prayers in one of the towns, something was said about an appointment to the leadership by the Assembly of Experts. This issue has attracted great attention from the western mass media and foreign papers. They have attached particular importance to it and have given it their own interpretation. Would you, as deputy chairman of the Assembly of Experts, who has been present at all of its sessions, please explain the origin of the issue and give us your views in this connection?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Normally the Assemblt of Experts meets once a year and usually there is one extraordinary session in between. During our annual session, 4-5 months ago, we debated Article 107 [of the Constitution], which deals with the issue of the leadership and the appointment of a successor. Various clauses, prepared by the Majlis commissions, were debated.

During the debate, we questioned whether it is the duty of the experts to forecast the future in implementing Article 107 during the life of the existing leader, and whether they should be prepared for any possible incident so that the country and society would not suffer from a leadership vacuum for even a single day; or should the experts wait until the incident happens and hold a session afterward to think of the future leader? We debated this issue for awhile and the preliminary views of the Assembly of Experts, as a necessary prelude, were given as follows: It is our duty to be prepared and to make certain that society will never suffer because of a leadership vacuum.

After approving this, a point was raised on the existing situation. Article 107 has two parts. The main part says that when the people themselves identify and select an individual as their leader and source of emulation, as was the case in the selection of his holiness the imam, then the experts have no duty to perform. That is, the people have chosen their leader and their wishes have been carried out. But if this does not happen, then the experts should examine the possible choices and nominate one or several jurisprudents as the leader or as the leadership council.

At this point, I would like to read Article 107. It says: When a jurisprudent, eligible in accordance with Article 105, is identified and accepted by the majority of the people as a source of emulation and as a leader, as was the case of the exalted source of emulation and the leader of the revolution Grand Ayatollah Imam Khamene'i, such a leader is the Velayat-e Amr and has charge of all the responsibilities arising from this status.

This is the first part of the Article 107. A group of deputies of the Assembly of Experts, about 50 of them, proposed in the session that the people have chosen His Excellency Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as the leader, that is, as the source of the leader for the future. Of course, this is not for today; it is for the era after the imam.

Naturally, we were expected to debate this proposal in that session. At the time, we discussed the issue for a while but ran short of time. Then we said that this should be postponed until a commission is chosen to work on it and to study other individuals. We would then raise the results of this commission's work in our next session. Well, we held our next session recently and the report of the commission was raised in this session. The session debated the proposal of the 50 deputies, about 50 deputies. The debate was lengthy, we discussed it during three sittings, and eventually we reached a conclusion and voted on it. I will explain the text of the approval.

During our debates, we mainly discussed the point as to whether this task has been fulfilled by the people and we no longer have any duty in this matter, or whether the task has not been carried out and we are duty bound to work on it further. After a lengthy discussion, we voted for the first point. Our regulations dictate that two-thirds of the votes should decide the fate of the leadership and an absolute majority is not sufficient.

Many points were raised and eventually the following was approved, with an introduction which is not part of the approved proposal. The approval says: His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri, may his blessings continue, is at present the sole qualifier for the first part of Article 107 of the Constitution and is acceptable by an absolute majority of the people as the future leader. The Assembly of Experts deems this selection as a righteous one and endorses it.

The Assembly of Experts, therefore, has performed its task as a necessary prelude, so we are prepared for any tragedy or incident, God forbid. Of course, it is clear that this issue concerns the era after the imam; that is, at present, his great eminence the imam is the leader and we all pray that the need will never arise for a new leader and that the imam's leadership will continue until the advent of his great eminence the holy hidden Imam. May the people witness the day when the imam of the era takes over the leadership from our leader. That is our wish.

Praise be to God, the imam is enjoying perfect health, happiness, and good spirit; and if God decrees that the imam should have a longer life span than the normal life of the long-living people, then we will not need to refer to this issue. However, as members of the Assembly of Experts, we are duty bound to be prepared for any eventuality. No one can predict future events. We are not endowed with esoteric knowledge and we are unaware of divine decrees. Praise be to God, the task has been performed in good faith and all the experts signed the proposal. We have not yet sent the text of what we have approved to the imam or to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, because several of the gentlemen were absent — they were away on a trip — and have not yet signed it. We are waiting for them to return and sign it, then we can submit it to the imam.

The mass media wonder why we have not publicized this issue. The reason is that our debates and approvals are held in camera, that is, our debates and their outcome are not passed to the mass media. They are not secret, it is not an offence to divulge them, but it has been agreed that under normal circumstances they should not be passed to the mass media. Therefore, we carried on as normal. There was no need to publicize it either, because we were not working for the present time; we were working for the future. We wanted to make it clear that we are prepared and we deemed it necessary to be prepared. The deputies were justified in discussing the issue in their own circles, but they were not supposed to pass it to the mass media. When the issue was raised in one of the Friday prayers sermons, the mass media displayed some sensitivity. The daily papers wrote it in their headlines and discussed it, and since the issue is important, our friends and foes abroad found something new. As expected, it provoked international sensitivity. After consulting some of our friends, we came to the conclusion that we should explain the above because of the many questions raised in people's minds. Otherwise, we would have left the issue at rest until there was an executive need for it. [end recording]

President Dismisses U.S.-USSR Summit Meeting

GF270951 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 27 Nov 85

[Excerpt] President 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, has referred to the recent U.S.-Soviet summit in Geneva. Addressing a group of the popular mobilization forces during ceremonies held in Tehran on the occasion of the week of mobilization of the oppressed, he said:

The only regime that does not pay any attention to such meetings and does not deviate in the slightest from its course and goals is the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, because this regime counts on the people's masses and will never surrender to foreigners, the superpowers, and the extortionists. President Khamene'i added that the mobilization forces are an impetuous sea of popular masses and that if the waves of this sea are directed properly, the problems of all the countries will be solved, including Iraq — where the upstarts and those who perpetrate coups will be incapable of doing anything in the face of this impetuous sea of the popular masses.

In his speech, which he made during these ceremonies that were also attended by a number of military and civilian officials in addition to Hojjat ol-Eslam Al-Hakim, the SAIRI official spokesman — he addressed the countries that call on Islamic Iran to bargain with the aggressive Iraqi regime. He said: The only way to terminate the war is to pressure the Saddam regime, to stop all forms of aid currently being given to it. He then referred to the efforts of some countries which call for the interference of the superpowers in the imposed war. He said that the superpowers cause crises and stir up wars and that they cannot settle their own problems. He emphasized that the result of the war is clear and the soldiers of Islam will be triumphant.

He then referred to the sophisticated weapons that the soldiers of Islam possess. He said: Just to spite the United States, which

does not want us to possess sophisticated weapons, we managed to manufacture such weapons, to repair them or [word indistinct] them. We have also acquired all we need from various channels. We currently possess sophisticated weapons.

Officials Address Commanders During Basij Week

Khomeyni Representative

LD251144 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov. 25, IRNA — Commanders and officials of Khuzestan Province, in a gathering here Sunday night, reiterated that they will fight off the aggressor Iraqi enemy until the final victory of the Iranian forces.

Addressing Basij commanders gathered on the occasion of the Basij week, to start Tuesday, Imam Khomeyni's representative at Karbala Headquarters said that in the recently concluded Geneva summit conference of the heads of superpowers, ways of encountering the Islamic Revolution of Iran was discussed.

He further told the crowd that the superpowers had come to the conclusion that a third power, that of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, has now been created in the world which was determintal to the interests of the both superpowers.

He further added that the Islamic Revolution of Iran was enjoying support of the oppressed from throughout the world. For instance, a group of American Indians recently in a letter addressed to Imam Khomeyni have asked him whether he was concerned about salvation of the American Indians. These moves, he added, have frightened the U.S. Administration.

Right after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran, Imam Khomeyni called for the formation of a 20-million-strong army. Following the imam's statement, the Basij of the Mostazafaeen (Mobilisation of the Oppressed) was formed and hundreds of thousands of volunteers registered for training.

So far some three million of the volunteers have completed special training courses and have fought against the Iraqi enemy at warfronts.

On the occasion of the formation of the force, and the Basij week, special ceremonies will be held throughout the country.

Khamene'i Address

LD261413 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] On the first day of Basij Week, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, today addressed the commanders of bases and resistance regions of the Mobilization of the Oppressed [Basij-e Mostaz'afin], civilian and military officials, and some 17,000 Basij forces at Azadi Stadium. He said: One of the miracles associated with the Islamic Revolution is this very Mobilization of the Oppressed; the existence of this phenomenon in our system shows that this system and government is moving with full strength.

The president referred to the recent superpower summit conference in Geneva and said: The only system that, without paying the slightest attention to such conferences, does not allow itself to be diverted from its objective and direction in the slightest is the system of the Islamic Republic. This is because this system does not pay protection money to foreigners, the sabre rattlers, the bully boys, and blackmailers, for it relies upon its own people.

Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i referred to the important role that the Basij is undertaking both at the front and behind the lines. He said: The Basij means the presence of the entire nation in the most crucial and decisive areas that the system is facing. Whenever the Basij, the people and the Hezbollah forces are present that is a flourishing place, and the system in its entirety, inspired by its leader, thinks in this way about the people. While the system of the Islamic Republic maintains this firm, close, and strong tie with the people it will be invulnerable.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council adressing the Basijis said: No doubt your presence on the streets and the barricades that you put up in February 1979 were the factor which brought about the victory of the revolution. Today, too, you are doing the same thing by sitting in your bunkers, fighting on the front of working behind the lines; all this is also to safeguard the revolution.

The president addressed the Islamic and neighboring countries and those states that desire to have good and cordial relations with Iran. He said: The war concerns the people's dignity, honor, and very existence; that war has been imposed on us by international arrogance. Now, in the thick of the Iraqi regime's defeat and desperation a clamor is being raised saying: Come and end the war and make peace. But I declare right here that the only way to solve the problem is to bring pressure to bear on the Iraqi regime and to cut off the various forms of aid to that regime.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council stressed: For us the leader's and the people's initiative and steadfastness are enough to continue the war. We do not need anybody's assistance, for anyone who relies on God needs no other help.

Mr Khamene'i referred to efforts being initiated by a number of countries to involve the superpowers in the Iran-Iraq war. He said: The superpowers are themselves the cause of crises and wars, and they are unable to solve their own problems. We shall deliver the same punch we struck at Iraq to any other aggressor. The oucome of the war is clear, and the conclusion of it will be victory for the combatants of Islam.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council stressed the importance of organization and military training in the Basij. He called on all the Basij forces to maintain the spirit of valor and faith and to be, like the Prophet's apostles at the dawn of Islam, lions in the daylight and worshippers at night.

Our correspondent reports that before the speech by the president, Mr Rahmani, the official in charge of the Mobilization of the Oppressed delivered, a report about the successes of the Basij forces in forming the 20-million strong army, expanding their bases and resistance regions throughout the country, and dispatching volunteer forces through the corps's mobilization unit.

More on Khamene'i Remarks

GF260647 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] During his meeting yesterday with thousands of members of the mobilization of the oppressed of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, said: The great powers are unable to intervene in the imposed war. The issue of this war concerns us alone, and we will strike with a strong hand at every other aggressor, as we have struck at the Iraqi regime.

Referring to the talks during the superpowers summit, the president said: Even if the superpowers negotiate for 2 years instead of 2 days, or even if scores of great powers negotiate instead of merely two, the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran will fear no one, since is depends on the citizens and will pay tribute to no one.

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i added: The effects that our victories in the aggressive war will have on the world will be similar to the victory of the Islamic Revolution. He said that the bases and foundations of the injustice of arrogance that were shaken by the triumph of the Islamic Revolution will be shaken more than at any previous time by the victories of the Muslim fighters.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council asserted that our eventual victory in the war is certain. He said that the Iranian Muslim people will not rest until they have achieved full victory.

The brother president addressed neighboring countries and the Islamic countries that seek to establish amicable relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that the aggressive war is connected with our people's dignity. He said that at a time when the Iraqi regime has reached a stage of collapse and defeat, numerous reactionary countries have raised a hue and cry for peace; but when the Iraqi regime started this war, these countries did not ask the Iraqi regime to go back to the international border. These countries have only one option, and that is to stop their aid to Saddam's regime, he said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Address

GF270851 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Nov 85

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the representative of the imam in the Supreme Defense Council and the Majlis speaker, in a speech to the overall gathering of commanders of resistance forces and districts and other members of the mobilization for the oppressed forces, described the mobilization as a blessing from God that was placed in the heart of the leader of the Islamic Revolution so that he could issue the order for its implementation. He added: We must think of mobilization as a holy blessing and a shining thought from the sky. A shining thought that took shape through a call is a holy blessing. As each day goes by, the value of mobilization becomes more clear to us, and we completely believe that mobilization is a holy innovation.

The speaker for the Supreme Defense Council, discussing the war and describing the participation of various sectors of the population in it as one of the results of mobilization, emphasized: If a country wished to carry out the task taken up by the mobilization using only an organized and formal army, they would be unable to do so. He noted that the mobilization forces will be used as forces who can solve many problems in the country after the war. He emphasized the necessity of the participation of all forces in confronting any movements that may endanger the aspirations of the revolution and the boundaries and [word indistinct] of the country. He said that our readiness will make others wary of us.

The reason the world's oppressors used to talk of war with us and now beg us to make peace is your participation on the fronts. There was a time when they said they were tired of war and were trying to [words indistinct] for themselves. However when they noticed that through one call a great number of volunteers for the fronts rushed to the registration centers, they stopped their trouble making and held out a friendly hand toward us. This is all due to the readiness of the mobilization.

The representative of the imam on the Supreme Defense Council described the future policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the war fronts and the aims of a series of future operations by the combatants of Islam and noted that establishing the necessary political conditions is one of the major military objectives on the war fronts for the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: For the time being our war policies are concentrated on keeping all the forces ready on all of the war fronts. We believe that we must keep all our forces ready throughout the fronts; whenever it is necessary and when the political conditions are right, we will use them.

According to the same report, Mr Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, during a speech in praise of mobilization week, emphasized more resistance by the mobilization forces in all parts of the Islamic Republic, particularly the new phase of the imposed war and participation in the combat scenes.

Supreme Court Head's Address

GF270750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Nov 85

[Text] According to IRNA, the gathering of the commanders of resistance bases and regions and the forces of [word indistinct] mobilization for the oppressed continued in Azadi sport stadium yesterday afternoon. A large number of Iraqi mojahedin were present at the gathering, and the president of the Supreme Court, Mr Ardabili, made a speech.

Mr Musavi-Ardabili explained mobilization as a star shining in Iran's holy sky, and its light is lighting the world. At the beginning of his speech, the president of the Supreme Court noted the self-sacrifice of the various sectors of the people for the victory of the Islamic Revolution and its continuation, and said: Our people have found a new life through the Islamic Revolution, a new life that has been given to all of our people.

Mr Musavi-Ardabili, noting that the message of the Islamic Revolution echoes throughout the world today, said: The message of the Islamic Revolution has gone beyond borders of the country; eyes of the oppressed people of the world are on our holy

revolution. He added: As long as our revolution has mobilized, it will not be defeated. The weapon of our mobilization is the people's chant "God is Great" and their love for mobilization.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the [word indistinct] being carried out in the society and said: As long as justice and [word indistinct] is not carried out in the society, we cannot say that we have been able to rule through Islam. As long as there is a shopkeeper in our country who overcharges for the goods he sells and is fined 2 billion Tomans in 1 year for doing so, we cannot say that Islam is ruling the society. He added: The judicial force in our country is determined to use more power to take back from the tyrants the capital that has been stolen from the treasury and return it to the treasury.

Continuing Reportage on Visit of Bulgarian Minister

Meeting With Foreign Minister

LD262356 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] The Bulgarian Minister of machine building, who visiting Iran, met Foreign Minister Velayati today. The two countries' relations were discussed during the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmoshpere.

Talks With Agriculture Minister

LD261705 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA — The visiting Bulgaran minister of machine building and electronics, Ognyan Doynov met and conferred with Iran's Agriculture Minister 'Ali 'Abbas Zali here Tuesday.

At the meeting, the two expressed willingness to expand Irano-Bulgarian economic-agricultural relations and agreed to make further efforts in that regard.

Discussions With Minister of PTT

LD262357 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA — Visiting Bulgarian minister of Machine Building and Electronics Ognyan Doynov met Iranian Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone Mohammad Gharazi here Tuesday.

Discussed in the meeting was future bilateral cooperation in different fields including satellites and previously signed protocols between the two countries.

Tour of Bus Factory

LD261704 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA — The visiting Bulgarian minister of machine building and electronics, Ognyan Doynov toured Iran-Khodro bus manufacturing factory here Tuesday.

The Bulgarian minister, accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Heavy Industry, discussed commercial issues with Iran-Khodro management.

Doynov arrived here Sunday at the head of a 20-member delegation and has so far held talks with several senior Iranian officials.

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Departs 26 Nov

LD261506 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA — The Hungarian deputy foreign affairs minister, Gabor Nagy, concluded his visit to Iran and left here Tuesday morning.

During his stay in Tehran, Gabor discussed expansion of bilateral relations as well as international issues with Iranian officials.

During the talks, latest developments in the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, and especially in Lebanon, the Iraqi-imposed war, and the situations in Latin American and African countries were reviewed.

The two sides also held talks on the forthcoming visit of Iran's Majlis speaker 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Hungary, an invitation extended by Hungarian officials earlier.

Libyan Charge Reaffirms Support For Iran

LD252230 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA — Libyan charge d'affaires to Tehran, 'Abdallah Fadil in a meeting with Iran's interior minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi here Monday, voiced support for the stance of the Islamic Republic in relation with the developments in the region.

At the meeting, Fadil said that Libya has all along supported the Islamic Revolution, that it would continue to do so in the future and that there had been absolutely no shift in Libya's policy in this regard.

The Libyan charge d'affaires also called for further meetings and exchange of views between officials of Iran and Libya.

In response the interior minister expressed pleasure at the statements of the Libyan envoy and termed such meetings between the officials of the two countries as being 'positive'. Mohtashemi further said that it was necessary for progressive countries to coordinate their struggle and have a united strategy against the U.S. and Zionist regime.

Elsewhere in his talks, the interior minister said that the U.S. is concerned only with how to plunder the riches and the resources of oppressed nations rather than respect the legitimate interests of the Muslim world.

On the Palestinian issue, the interior minister said that experience has shown that the problems of the Palestinians can be solved only by armed struggle and not by political resolutions.

Ayatollah Montazeri Teaches on 'Unity Week'
LD241419 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Following his religious teaching session this morning, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri made some statements on the occassion of Unity Week. While noting the importance of honoring the birthday of the holy prophet of Islam by holding religious ceremonies, he said: Those priests belonging to and dependent on courts of kings who consider such ceremonies and the honoring of the holy prophet of Islam as heretical and prohibited, do not comprehend Islam and the religion, and moreover, do not pay attention to their own wisdom and instincts.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: At a time when the global arrogance and the leaders of capitalism and communism, despite their differences and conflicts, are reaching agreements and common points of views, why should Muslims not bring their own differences down to a minimum — given their common interests in many fields — and create a unified front vis-a-vis the blasphemy of the West and that of the East, as well as global zionism? Muslims should replace their slandering and cursing of each other, intensifying racial and religious differences, their discussing issues such as pan-Iranianism, pan-Arabism and pan-Turkism — the wish of the old enemies of Islam and the Koran, and being created by the same people — with Islam, thus allowing discussions on ways to deal with Zionism and global arrogance to be held in complete harmony and agreement.

He also said: I have repeatedly said that the purpose of achieving unity in expression by Muslims in the face of blasphemy and Zionism, does not mean, for example, that Shi'ites should forego their right beliefs and religious jurisprudence or even that various tribes of Sunnis should not uphold their own beliefs and religious jurisprudence. Nobody has said such things. We say that Shi'ites must follow their religion and religious jurisprudence in earnest and act accordingly, propagating their beliefs and religious jurisprudence while relying on logic and robust reasoning devoid of any slander or insult against others. The others must do the same. The goal of Unity Week is that Muslims should pay more attention to common religious and ideological grounds, and should form a unified front against Israel, and the blasphemy of both the East and the West and their agents'.

In conclusion, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri announced a recess in his teachings until the end of Unity Week ceremonies. Noting the requirements of the warfronts for clergymen and missionaries, he said: Now that a large number of people are leaving for the fronts, the need for the presence of learned persons will increase. Thus it is appropriate that the brothers take advantage of Unity Week in a spiritual manner and cooperate more with the Islamic Publicity Office of Qom Seminary in connection with its projected warfront dispatch plans.

Speaks on Unity Against Infidels
GF250643 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Excerpts] On the eve of the prophet's birthday and the beginning of Unity Week, during an address Great Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the need to take interest in the celebrations marking the anniversary of the birth of the prophet, and to hold meetings and religious ceremonies on this occasion.

In another part of his address, Great Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the alliance of international apostasy and the leaders of capitalism and communism to further exploit the oppressed peoples. He wondered why Muslims do not form a united front to confront the Eastern and Western infidel front and international Zionism.

His eminence added: I have often said that the unification of Muslim ranks vis-a-vis international infidelity and Zionism does not mean that the Shi'ites must, for instance, abandon their creeds and Koranic interpretation, or that the Sunni schools must relinquish their Koranic interpretation and creed. Rather, what is intended is to form a united front to confront Israel and the Eastern and Western infidel front and their agents.

Shi'ites, Sunnis Hold Meeting
LD260932 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., NOV. 26, IRNA — On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the prophet of Islam, Mohammad, and the Unity Week, a two-day gathering of the Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim Friday prayer leaders of the province opened here Monday [25 November].

The Unity Week was initiated by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in Nov. 82 in order to bring greater unity among the world community of Muslims. It starts with Rabiul Awwal 12th (The day Sunni Muslims celebrate theprophet's birthday) and ends with Rabi-ul Awwal 17th (date of prophet's birthday according to Shi'ite Muslims).

The gathering was attended by Friday prayers leader of Bandar Abbas, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmadi who is also representative of Imam Khomeyni to the province, said that holding of the Unity Week was an effective step towards further unity among Muslims.

Another speaker of the session was the Friday prayers leader of Rasht, Gilan province, and Imam's special representative to the province, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ehsan-Bakhsh, who said that disunity was the gravest threat against Islam and Muslim community. Further in his speech, he pointed out that the prophet of Islam always urged his followers to unite.

Hojat ol-Eslam Ehsan-Bakhsh talked about plots of the oppressors of East and West against Iran and added that under wise leadership of Imam Khomeyni smashing blows have been dealt on the world arrogance.

Oil Minister Calls For Less Dependence on Oil
LD230007 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 21 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov 21, IRNA — Iran's new oil minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, said Thursday that establishing new jetties out

of the reach of the Iraqi Air Force will prevent a halt to country's oil exports even in the case of damage to oil terminals in the Khark island.

In an interview with the Oil Ministry's publication *PAYKE NAFT* Aqazadeh also said that the Islamic Republic should reduce its dependency on the oil exports.

Iraqi Air Force has tried several times to destroy the Khark Island oil terminals in order to halt Iran's oil exports and the war effort but it has failed.

Aqazadeh also called for Iranian active presence in organization of petrolium exporting countries in order to guard the unity of that organization.

Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, appointed as the new oil minister 28 October, is a computer engineer from Tehran University. He was deputy prime minister in charge of executive affairs prior to his recent appointment.

Kho'iniha: Iraq To Be 'Freed' by Islamic Revolution

LD242225 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA — All ideological, cultural and economical bases of the global aggressors in Iran should be rooted out, said the prosecuter general of the Islamic Republic, Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha here Saturday.

Speaking at the flag hoisting ceremony of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) here, Hojatt ol-Eslam Kho'iniha stressed the continuation of the struggle against the external and internal enemies saying "we must mobilize all our capability to fight against the external enemies and cut their hands".

The prosecuter general also said that Iran's victory in the war will show the world that the Islamic Revolution is able to lead the oppressed throughout the world.

Kho'iniha said the Iraqi people will be a first nation to be freed by the Islamic Revolution.

Bushehr Reports Kuwait Expels More Iranians

GF261414 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Over the past few days, 41 Iranian Muslim workers, who had been expelled from Kuwait have arrived in Bushehr on motor launches via the Iranian coastal waters. They were accommodated at camps established for Kuwaiti deportees. According to a Central News Unit report, these persons, expelled from Kuwait in continuation of hostile steps by the Kuwait regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, before their expulsion had been kept in detention in Kuwait under strict security.

KAYHAN Says Israel Involved in Egypt Plane Rescue

LD262130 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov 26, IRNA — English daily *KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL* commented editorially Tuesday on the hijacking of the Egyptian airlines to Malta.

"The hijacking of an Egyptian airliner, which was forced to land at Valletta airport in Malta Island ended early yesterday morning in the worst and bloodiest disaster in the history of civil aviation," said the commentary and continued "the thoughtlessness of the Egyptian and Zionist Forces, who, under the pretext of rescuing the passengers, jointly carried out the attack is condemnable."

The *KAYHAN* article said that according to some confirmed reports trained Israeli commandos had led the armed attack on the hijacked plane "in collaboration with the Egyptian security forces."

Said the daily "it should be remembered that the American Government ordered the skyjacking of the (same) Egyptian plane carrying Palestinian guerrillas, and forced it to land at a NATO pact military airport in southern Italy."

"The U.S. and Zionist Government terrorists should realise that violence brings violence. Those who kindle the fire for others will be the first to turn into ashes" *KAYHAN* editorialized.

Civilian POW's Return, Discuss Captivity

GF221609 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Seventeen of our civilian compatriots who had been residents in the southern and southwestern areas of Iran who have been POW's of the regime ruling Iraq for 5 to 6 years, returned home yesterday afternoon abroad a chartered jet.

According to our correspondent these persons are civilians. Most were civil servants in the south and southwestern areas. They were taken captive during attacks on towns. They are proof of Iraq's false claims that there are no Iranian civilian POW's in Iraq. According to this report the release of these captive compatriots was due to the effective efforts of the Commission for the Support of POW's and Iranian MIA's and following the humane efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the unilateral release of maimed Iraqi POW's. The Zionist regime of Iraq was therefore forced to release some elderly civilian POW's.

The head of the Commission for the Support of POW's and MIA's told our reporter in an interview: The brothers who have been released will spend 24 hours in the hospital under a health quarantine. Then, they will be handed over to their families. He also said: Until these persons are able to work, they will be taken care of by the Martyrs' Foundation of the Islamic Revolution.

Our reporter interviewed two of the released Iranian POW's. We invite you to listen to this.

[Begin recording][Unidentified correspondent] Would you please tell us how old you are and how long you have been held captive?

[Gholam Hoseyn 'Abbasi] In the name of God. My name is Gholam Hoseyn 'Abbasi and I am a resident of Dezful. I was taken captive by the aggressive Iraqi troops 5 years and 2 months ago on the road between Abadan and Mahshahr. Since then, I have been held in various camps and they have taken me to several Iraqi prisons. I have spent time in cells and now I have returned to my beloved homeland and I wish to thank the dear Imam.

[Correspondent] Iraq has claimed that there are no civilian POW's in that country. What do you think about this claim?

['Abbasi] There are many others apart from us here among you dear brothers now. They are still in the camps and most of them are employees of the National Iranian Oil Company who were captured between 11 November and 16 November 1980 on the roads where they were travelling to do their jobs to serve the Islamic Republic. That was where they were captured by the Iraqi forces and now they are in the camps. All of them have documents which prove what they have claimed all along. I will give you an example: A lawyer working for the National Iranian Oil Company is not duty-bound to carry arms. Does not Iran have soldiers to carry arms? Then why do the Iraqis say that lawyers were bearing arms? [end recording]

POW's Return to Avhaz

LD250924 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov. 25, IRNA — Two Iranian POW's who have been recently released, arrived here Sunday and were welcomed by local people and officials.

Gholamreza Sharifian, one of the freed POW's who was a truck driver said that he was captured while driving on Ahvaz-Mahshahr road in Oct. 1980, and was later transferred to Tanoumeh Garrison.

Another Iranian POW Mozaffar Kheirabadi, 51, who was captured on Abadan-ahvaz road in Oct. 1980, said that those who seek political asylum in Iraq, will be transferred to the POW's camp and would be treated as prisoners of war.

The fugitive refugees will soon realise the true nature of the Iraqi regime, he said adding that many of these refugees have expressed their regret to the Iranian POW's stationed in Iraqi camps.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,301

LD261550 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, now. 26, IRNA — More than 15 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts over the past 24 hours when their positions and fortifications were shelled by Iranian Muslim fighters, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Tuesday.

In its Communique Number 2301, the Command added that Iranian combatants reconnoitered and opened fire on an Iraqi minefield in Helaleh operational region Monday, detonating part of the minefield and other Iraqi obstacles.

Also, Iranian naval fire pounded Iraqi oil and military installations in Al Faw inflicting heavy losses, over the same period, the command said.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iraqi troops incurred substantial casualties and damage in an area overlooking Panjvain when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire Monday.

An Iraqi vehicle column in the region of Qasr-e Shirin was subjected to artillery fire of the Islamic Forces, resulting in destruction of several enemy vehicles and halting the column.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iran's Gendarmerie forces pounded enemy positions across the Arvand River with artillery and weaponry fire over the past 24 hours, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops and devastating several weaponry positions of the enemy.

A few buildings in Abadan, Khuzestan Province were destroyed by the enemy long-range artillery fire Monday, the communique concluded.

Abadan Shelled

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[Text] According to a Central News Unit correspondent's report, the City of Abadan came under fire of the heavy artillery of the criminal enemy over the past 24 hours, continuing shelling of residential and civilian areas of the resistant City of Abadan. The shelling damaged parts of the city and destroyed 4 homes.